



# Questions about Medicare Rx?

**Call us! 1-800-562-6900**

*Medicare's new prescription drug program (also called Medicare Part D) is the newest change to Medicare. We can help you with it and perhaps you can help us, too!*

**Some details are not yet available, but right now we can tell you:**

- Current Medicare beneficiaries will have a six-month "open enrollment" period starting November 15, 2005.
- Some beneficiaries who do not enroll by May 15, 2006 will have a penalty if they choose to enroll later.
- There will be many options to choose from and each one will be different.
- Some Medicare beneficiaries with limited incomes get a notice from the Social Security Administration (SSA) encouraging them to pre-qualify for extra help (a low-income subsidy) with the costs of Medicare's new prescription drug program based on their income and assets.
- Medicare beneficiaries will be able to get benefits through "Medicare Advantage" plans in some areas, or through private plans whose benefits work with the original Medicare program.

SHIBA Helpline has trained volunteers that can help with the required paperwork if you wish to enroll in Medicare's new prescription drug program, the subsidy, or other programs. Counseling is free.

**SHIBA Helpline volunteers can also help you right now:**

- **Enroll in a Medicare Rx discount card program.**
- **Save money on Rx drugs through pharmacy assistance programs.**

We are actively seeking people who would like to learn more and who might volunteer to help their friends, family and neighbors learn, too.

**It's fun and rewarding. We provide free, local training.**

SHIBA Helpline is a public service of the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner. Call us at **1-800-562-6900** or visit [www.insurance.wa.gov](http://www.insurance.wa.gov)



*This publication may have been partially funded by grants from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the US Administration on Aging.*